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NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Prices were unchanged on all sizes in all regions. The trade sentiment was generally steady entering the weekend. Demand was light to fairly good and was best where features were in progress or planned for next week. Supplies were mostly adequate for current needs. Breaking stock offerings were adequate or available for the light to moderate demand. Light type fowl were fully adequate for slaughter schedules.

NORTH ATLANTIC Prices were unchanged. The market tone was cautiously steady. Demand was light to moderate, best where featured. Supplies were mostly adequate for trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were generally adequate for the fair demand. Light type hens were usually sufficient and demand was slow.

NEW YORK Prices ended the week unchanged on all sizes. The market tone was steady. Demand was light to moderate, best where featured. Supplies were adequate for current requirements.

MIDWEST Prices ended the week unchanged in all areas. The trade sentiment was steady to at times fully steady. Retail demand was fair to fairly good, best into planned and ongoing feature activity. Food service movement was generally moderate. Supplies were mostly adequate. Central States nest run breaking stock prices were unchanged. Offerings were adequate or available for current needs with a few breakers bidding within the current range for additional heavy nest runs at this call. Demand was mostly light to moderate and most breakers worked from existing inventories. Floor stocks mixed from occasionally tight to fully adequate. Trade sentiment was steady.

CHICAGO Prices for all sizes unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Retail and food service demand ranged from light to good, mostly moderate and best where features are a factor. Supplies adequate.

SOUTHERN Prices were unchanged. In Atlanta, asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending unchanged than current week. However, in Florida, asking prices for next week were trending unchanged on all sizes except mediums which were trending higher than current week. The market tone was steady entering the weekend. Demand was light to moderate, best where features were in progress or planned for next week. Supplies were usually adequate for trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were generally adequate and demand was fair. Light type hens were fully adequate for slaughter schedules.

WEST COAST Prices unchanged. The market tone was firm on the large sizes in California with asking prices for next week 1 cent higher on jumbo, extra large and large. Medium and small in California and all sizes in the Northwest were steady with asking prices unchanged. Retailer demand fairly good. Offerings confidently held.

PRICES TO RETAILERS - SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NORTHEAST CITIES	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST CITIES			
Boston (Brown)	121-123	111-113	81-83
New York	73-75	70-73	66-69
Philadelphia	71-73	69-71	63-66
SOUTHERN CITIES			
Atlanta (1) (2)	64-65	62.5-64	60-61
Jackson (1)	72-73	71-72	69-70
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	68-83	67-81	61-75
MIDWEST CITIES			
Chicago	61-66	60-65	55-60
Detroit (2)	58-61	57-60	50-53
Major Ohio Cities (2)	59-65	58-63	51-57
Major Wisconsin Cities	62-69	60-67	54-61
WESTERN CITIES			
Houston (1)	76-80	75-77	69-72
Southern California(Grade AA)(4)	83-96	81-88	77-83
California (Grade AA) (1) (3)	99	91	87
(1) - Prices Reported Weekly	(3) - Reported Invoice Prices		
(2) - Delivered Warehouse	(4) - Prices To Retailers		

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was firm on the large sizes with asking prices for next week 1 cent higher on jumbo, extra large, and large; medium and small were steady with asking prices unchanged. Retailer demand fairly good. Offerings light and held confidently. Small invoice price 67. Ads in Southern California: major- large 18 pack 129; smaller outlets-jumbo dozen 109, extra large dozen 87-99, 20 pack 169, 3 for \$5, large dozen 89-99.

CALIFORNIA
PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	112
EXTRA LARGE	99
LARGE	91
MEDIUM	87

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	99-109
EXTRA LARGE	83-96
LARGE	81-88
MEDIUM	77-83

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	229-289
EXTRA LARGE	219-259
LARGE	199-229
MEDIUM	187-199

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices unchanged. Offerings were adequate or available for current needs with a few breakers bidding within the current range for additional heavy nest runs at this call. Demand was mostly light to moderate and most breakers worked from existing inventories. Floor stocks mixed from occasionally tight to fully adequate. Trade sentiment steady. PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	35-38	36-37
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	20-23	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:

AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Prices were unchanged on nest run breaking stock, irregular on checks and undergrades when compared to early week trading. Demand was fair for generally adequate offerings. The market tone was mostly steady. Breaking schedules were normal. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 27 January 2001 were 9% less than the previous week, and 8 % less than a year earlier. PRICES MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	
NEST RUN	34-38	35-37
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	20-25.75	20-24

EASTERN REGION AREA:

AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 27-Jan-01
(LBS IN THOUSANDS) (EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED.
CW	1,087,784	24,581	10,999	6,098	3,052	4,009
PW	1,125,192	25,765	11,616	6,499	*2,955*	4,098
LY	1,128,811	25,377	11,066	6,038	3,177	3,667
% PW	-3	-5	-5	-6	3	-2
% LY	-4	-3	-1	1	-4	9
2001	4,372,956	98,836	44,125	24,241	*11,167*	15,935
2000	4,593,792	103,574	45,877	25,497	12,554	15,329

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
	42.00	42.64	40.88

* Indicates revised figures.

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized salt yolk reported from 53.5 to 55 cents fob with no pasteurized whites reported. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak for whole egg and steady to barely steady for whites and yolk. Offerings of whole egg were fully adequate, with yolk available for needs and whites increasingly more available than previously reported. Demand for whole egg was seasonally fair to instances fairly good and demand on the balance of liquid was rated as mostly moderate. Breaking stock supplies were mixed from tight to fully adequate with prices unchanged.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00 AM Friday

02 February, 2001 non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	33	27-30.5	29.12	.56
WHITES	18	23-25.5	24.25	.11
YOLKS	6	50-52.5	52.08	.33

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Prices ranged unchanged to slightly lower on sugar and salt yolks, balance of items were usually unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Trading was fair but usually unaggressive. Supplies of whites were slightly more available, but still only adequate. Offerings of whole were adequate to fully adequate and at least adequate on yolks. The undertone was unsettled as traders watch further market developments. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending January 27, 2001 were 8% less than last week, and 4% less than a year ago.

WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	TRUCKLOTS RANGE	(MIN. 25 CONT.) MOSTLY	LTL RANGE
WHOLE	44-48	46-48	54-56
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		65-85
WHITES	35-37		41-54
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	66-68		71-76
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	63-65		68-74
(/) - WHOLE PLUS YOLK PLUS SWEETENER, GENERALLY 28-32% EGG SOLIDS.			

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen white values were unchanged with the balance of prices unchanged to slightly lower. Trade sentiment was generally steady for whole egg and whites and steady to instances barely steady for sugar and salt yolk. Offerings were adequate or available with whole egg in the longest position. Demand was seasonally fair and rated as hand to mouth. Breaking stock supplies were mixed from closely balanced to fully adequate and prices were unchanged. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS) TRUCKLOTS

	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	46-48	46
WHITES	34-37	34-36
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	66-69	
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	63.5-66	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices unchanged. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 1/27 was 1% less than the previous week. Breaking stock light but in fair balance with current needs. Frozen demand fair and freezer stocks adequate. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES, FOB SHIPPING POINT (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.) RANGE
WHOLE	53-56
WHITES	41-44
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-77
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	71-74

NATIONAL DRIED EGG Majority prices were unchanged on albumen, unchanged to slightly higher on yolks, and unchanged to lower on whole when compared to a week earlier. The market tone was unsettled to steady on albumen, barely steady on whole and yolks. Trading was fair with interest only slightly improved. Supplies were sufficient for current needs. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending January 27, 2001 were 3% more than last week, but 4% less than the same week a year ago.

WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES, DOLLARS PER LB., IN CONTAINERS, TRUCKLOT AND LESS-THAN-TRUCKLOT VOLUMES.

WHOLE	1.65-1.80	MOSTLY 1.65-1.70
YOLKS	1.52-1.65	MOSTLY 1.55-1.62
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	2.64-3.00	MOSTLY 2.65-2.75
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.25-1.35	

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR JAN 26, 01-FEB 01, 01

CURRENT LOADS								FUTURE LOADS								TOTAL LOADS									
165.25								100.25								265.25									
SE				NE				MW				SC				NW				SW					
CLASS	ORG	DST		ORG	DST		LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST		ORG	DST		LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST		ORG	DST		LOADS		
GNR W 1	44.08	48.88		45.13	47.40		90.00	GNR W 1	—	49.05		—	—		58.38	49.00	GNR W 1	—	49.05		—	—		58.38	49.00
GNR W 2	—	47.00		43.50	45.50		3.00	GNR W 3	—	46.63		—	—		8.00	8.00	GNR W 3	—	46.63		—	—		—	8.00
GNR W 3	—	—		—	—		10.00	GNR BR 1	—	82.50		—	—		2.00	2.00	GNR BR 1	—	82.50		—	—		—	2.00
GNR W 4	—	33.50		29.00	—		2.00	GL W J	57.00	—		—	—		1.00	1.00	GL W J	57.00	—		—	—		67.00	1.00
GNR BR 1	—	—		78.00	80.00		4.00	GL W XL	—	54.00		—	—		11.00	11.00	GL W XL	—	54.00		—	—		62.89	11.00
GL W XL	—	54.81		—	54.09		35.25	GL W LG	—	53.00		—	65.00		33.50	33.50	GL W LG	—	53.00		—	65.00		63.00	62.63
GL W LG	—	55.20		49.29	51.74		50.25	GL W MD	50.00	48.00		—	—		9.25	9.25	GL W MD	50.00	48.00		—	—		59.00	57.88
GL W MD	—	48.00		47.00	50.00		15.25	GL W SM	—	—		—	32.00		4.25	4.25	GL W SM	—	—		—	32.00		46.00	36.44
GL W SM	27.75	29.25		29.10	31.13		9.00	GL BR XL	90.00	—		—	—		.75	.75	GL BR XL	90.00	—		—	—		—	100.00
GL BR XL	—	86.00		—	—		.50	GL BR LG	90.00	—		—	—		.75	.75	GL BR LG	90.00	—		—	—		—	100.00
GL BR LG	—	86.00		—	—		.75	NRBS - 48	—	—		—	—		2.00	2.00	NRBS - 48	—	—		—	—		—	—
NRBS - 48	—	—		—	—		36.12																		
NRBS - 39	—	—		16.00	18.00		4.25																		

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

EASTERN LIGHT Prices were unchanged. Demand was slow for fully adequate offerings. Interest for finished product was clearing available supplies. The undertone was steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was light for at least adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were slowing. Trade sentiment was barely steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices remain unchanged. Offerings ample for the fair demand. Rendering facilities continue to absorb excess spent fowl as processor schedules run full-time. Trade sentiment steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants generally worked full schedules. Offerings overall exceeded available line time.

LIVE TYPE HENS

CENTS PER LB., DAY OF NEGOTIATION, GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS

LIGHT	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern Light	0-0	(1)
Eastern Light	0-0	(2)
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)
No. Central Light	0	(2)

(1) Buyer Loading (2) Producer Loading
(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

SHELL EGGS-12 METRO AREA FOR WEEK ENDING 02-FEB-01
AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A
LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED
STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	73.51	71.13	66.77
SOUTHERN	70.11	68.40	62.31
MIDWEST	62.39	61.15	55.17
WESTERN	91.41	85.74	81.28
TWELVE METRO AREAS	77.09	73.82	68.89

COMPUTED FROM SIMPLE WEEKLY AVERAGES WEIGHTED
BY METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATIONS

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Prices were unchanged on light canners. However, majority prices on heavy canners were unchanged to lower when compared to a week earlier. Trading was fair for a demand that ranged from moderate to good. Offerings in a few locations were slightly more available but product was still clearing. Supplies were irregular but usually sufficient for trade requirements. Undertone was usually steady to about steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITH OUT FREIGHT COST
LIGHT CANNER HENS **HEAVY CANNER HENS**
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) (WITHOUT NECKS)

21-24.5 MAJORITY 35-38 MAJORITY 36-37

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS **HEAVY CANNER HENS**
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) (WITHOUT NECKS)

25-26 MAJORITY 37-40.5 MAJORITY 38-39

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 27-JAN-01

(PRELIMINARY) **U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	2,032	1,353	3,385
LAST WEEK	1,787	1,376	3,163
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,083	1,222	3,305
TO-DATE/2001	7,151	4,746	11,897
TO-DATE/2000	8,269	5,360	13,629

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	607	0	607
LAST WEEK	591	7	598
SAME WEEK YR AGO	643	0	643
TO-DATE/2001	2,111	20	2,131
TO-DATE/2000	2,167	0	2,167

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	2,639	1,353	3,992
LAST WEEK	2,378	1,383	3,761
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,726	1,222	3,948
TO-DATE/2001	9,262	4,766	14,028
TO-DATE/2000	10,436	5,360	15,796

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending Jan 20, 2001	Year-To-Date			
	2001	2000 /1	2001	2000
Liquid	91	165	290	472
Frozen	0	0	0	0
Dried	0	0	0	0
Total	91	165	290	472

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending Jan 20, 2001	Year-To-Date			
	2001	2000 /1	2001	2000
Liquid	59	104	126	263
Frozen	26	4	47	11
Dried	15	0	40	82
Total	100	108	213	356

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending Jan 20, 2001	Year-To-Date			
	2001	2000 /1	2001	2000
Jumbo	0	0	0	13
Extra Large	300	50	605	353
Large	1,540	1,550	4,380	6,830
Medium	750	0	750	360
Ungraded	0	780	3,750	5,400
Misc	0	0	787	750
Total	2,590	2,380	10,272	13,706

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

DETROIT PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE. CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
66-69	57-63	55-60	48-53	30-34

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, LOOSE, AT FARM (CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS). CENTS PER DOZEN

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
40-42	34-36	13-15

NEW ENGLAND PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
132-135	102-105	92-95	62-65	21-24

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - SELECTED STGE CENTERS (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM 29-Jan-01	3,846	91,926	71,147
AM 1-Jan-01	4,221	68,786	74,663
CHG	-375	23,140	-3,516
PCT CHG	-9	34	-5

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 27-Jan-01

SELECTED CONSUMING CENTERS	CW THOUSANDS	PW	PCT CHG PW LY
ATLANTA	23.1	20.7	12 -25
BOSTON	3.9	3.9	0 8
CHICAGO	45.8	45.6	0 -20
DETROIT	27.0	27.8	-3 13
KANSAS CITY	4.8	5.6	-14 33
LOS ANGELES	128.8	134.2	-4 37
NEW ORLEANS	9.3	9.9	-6 -15
NEW YORK	36.1	31.3	15 -10
ST. LOUIS	15.3	13.2	16 -6
SAN FRANCISCO	24.6	26.5	-7 12
TOTAL	318.7	318.7	0 6
4 WK MVG AVG	316.3		

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 27-Jan-01

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PW LY
N. ATLANTIC	219.3	1 -1
E.N. CENTRAL	509.3	0 6
W.N. CENTRAL	257.8	-3 6
S. ATLANTIC	201.2	-1 0
S. CENTRAL	73.9	-2 9
WEST	198.2	-3 -3
TOTAL	1,459.7	-1 3

MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING 90 90

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG

JANUARY 30, 2001

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE MOSTLY	135 -	125 -	95 -	54 -
NEW HAMPSHIRE MOSTLY	128-132 130-131	118-122 120-121	88-92 90-91	47-51 49-50
RHODE ISLAND MOSTLY	131-135 131	121-125 121	91-95 91	50-54 50
VERMONT MOSTLY	135-138 138	125-128 128	96 -	- -

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CHICKENS AND EGGS**DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.28 billion during December 2000, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.20 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2000 averaged 332 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during December 1999. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,214 eggs in December 1999.

December 2000 contained 21 weekdays, 1 holiday and five Saturdays, compared to 23 weekdays, 1 holiday and 4 Saturdays in December 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2001, totaled 332 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 274 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.85 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2001, averaged 70.3 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 71.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.81 billion eggs during December 2000, down 1 percent from December 1999. The average number of layers during December, at 311 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

CHICKENS AND EGGS 2000 SUMMARY**HIGHLIGHTS**

Egg Production up 2 Percent: Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2000 totaled a record high 84.4 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the previous year's total of 82.7 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 71.4 billion eggs, increased 2 percent from 1999. Hatching egg production, at 13.0 billion eggs, increased slightly.

Average Number of Layers Up 2 Percent: Layer numbers during 2000 averaged 328 million, up 2 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2000 was 257 eggs, unchanged from the 1999 average.

December 1 Inventory Numbers: The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2000 (excluding commercial broilers) was 435 million birds, down slightly from last year.

Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2000, totaled 371 million, up 1 percent from December 1, 1999. Of the 371 million potential layers, 90 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2000 was \$1.06 billion, down 8 percent from December 1, 1999. The average value decreased from \$2.65 per bird on December 1, 1999, to \$2.43 per bird on December 1, 2000.